



Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615  
Phone: 203-385-4048  
www.townofstratford.com



REGISTRAR  
OF VOTERS

**SB1051**  
**March 9, 2015**

Good morning Chairman Cassano, Chairman Jutila and members of the GAE Committee,

We write to you to express our concern for SB1051, we appreciate your time and concur with the thought that legislation should never be an emotional issue. While we understand the need to discuss how to ensure our elections remain efficient and accurate, it puzzles us as to why any proposal to revamp an entire organization would be considered without real answers as to how this reorganization would ensure any egregious error would never occur again.

Stratford's Registrar of Voters Office has a history of conducting ourselves in a professional, non-partisan, organized and efficient manner to ensure our electorate is provided their constitutional right to vote and, most importantly, their votes are accurately recorded. We are offering our testimony to show the vast majority of municipalities operate the same way our office does in Stratford. We understand the need to discuss best practices with other municipalities and share how we can make all our offices more efficient. When an election, primary or referendum occurs, ensuring trust in the electorate is of the utmost importance and can only happen through communication, education and common sense.

We are willing to sit down with anyone to discuss our thoughts on how we operate in Stratford. We share everyone's concern and we are always open to any suggestion on how our office can operate in the most efficient manner possible. However, the proposed radical changes appear to be an emotional overreaction to the actions of a few registrars. The broad accusations being thrown around are not remotely constructive and present no real fix to any problems that may exist. The current system of having at least two elected registrars ensures a check and balance is in place and instills voter confidence in our electoral system. We fail to see how the proposed legislation to appoint one single registrar by the local governing body would ensure accountability and remove all "politics" as the Secretary of the State has insisted.

We ask for your continued support of the dual registrar system that's currently in place with the understanding we can address and correct anything we can pinpoint as an issue. We are offering our town as a model, and are willing to participate in any roundtable discussions necessary to help us and other municipalities strengthen our system. If you should have any questions we would be more than happy to answer them. Thank you for your time and your continued support.

Louis A. DeCilio  
Republican Registrar of Voters

Richard T. Marcone  
Democrat Registrar of Voters